

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancel)
2. (Previously Cancelled)
3. (Cancel)
- 4-5. (Previously Cancelled)
- 6-7. (Cancel)
8. (Previously Amended) A reticle management system for storing individual reticles after the reticles have been removed from a SMIF pod, the SMIF pod having a pod door that is removably coupled to a pod shell, the system comprising:

a load port assembly, said load port assembly being capable of supporting the SMIF pod and separating the pod door from the pod shell to provide access to the reticles stored within the SMIF pod;

a reticle stocker adapted to store each of the reticles once the reticle has been removed from the SMIF pod, said reticle stocker including:

a rotatable central shaft;

a plurality of annular carousels coaxially aligned with and secured to said rotatable central shaft, each one of said plurality of annular carousels having multiple substantially radially oriented slots extending outward from said rotatable central shaft such that each said slot stores an individual reticle in a substantially vertical orientation;

a fan filter unit adapted to circulate clean air by the reticles seated in each said slot; and

a reticle transfer mechanism for transferring reticles between said slots and the SMIF pod.

9-11. (Previously Cancelled)

12-14. (Withdrawn)